

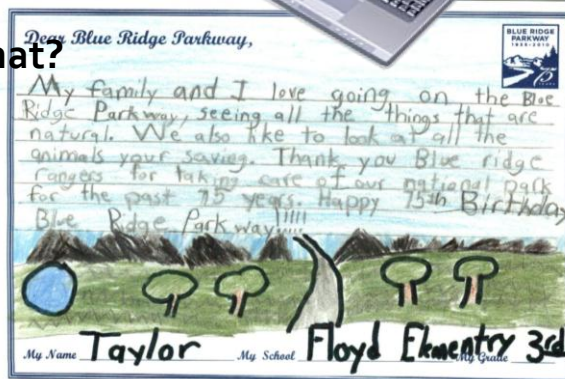
BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY SEASON OPENER WEBINAR 2011



Welcome

Webinars Work for Parkway

What is the Format?



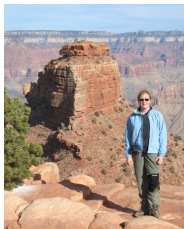


OUR AGENDA TODAY:



- Introduce Presenters
- Setting the Stage:
How does the Parkway get ready for a travel season?
- Zoom in on:
 - Resource Planning & Protection
 - Maintenance
 - Interp & Education
 - Safety/Law Enforcement
 - Concessions
 - Other Updates

Wrap Up & Questions



Laura Nelson



Leesa Brandon



Phil Francis



Teresa Lovelace



Michael Molling



Peter Givens



Steve Stinnett



Dawn Godwin



Phil Francis

Superintendent
Blue Ridge Parkway

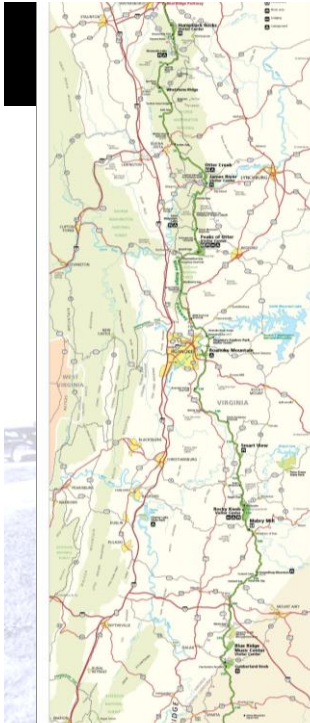


QUICK NPS UPDATE

- Happy National Park Week, April 16-24, 2011
Healthy Parks Healthy People
- 2011 and Beyond
 - America's Great Outdoors
 - CW 150, www.nps.gov/civilwar150
 - Park Service Centennial in 2016



AmericasGreatOutdoors.gov
A Promise to Future Generations



Parkway Management 101

- Ridge District, MP 0.0 to MP 106.1
(Waynesboro to Bedford VA)
- Plateau District, MP 106.2 to 216.9
(Roanoke to Galax VA)
- Highlands District, MP 217 to 305.1
(Sparta to Linville Falls NC)
- Pisgah District, MP 305.2 to 469.1
(Spruce Pine to Cherokee NC)
- Park Headquarters, Asheville NC



Park Divisions & Staff

- Interpretation and Education
- Maintenance & Engineering
- Resource Planning & Professional Services
- Law Enforcement, Safety & Emergency Services
- Administration & Concessions





Dawn Godwin

Community Planner,
Resource Planning &
Professional Services



Planning Projects Underway in 2011

- General Management Plan (Park-wide)
- The Roanoke Valley Trail Plan/
•Environmental Assessment (VA)
- Buncombe County Greenway Master Plan (NC)
- Moses Cone Developed Area Plan (NC)
- Vista Management Plan - *Upcoming*



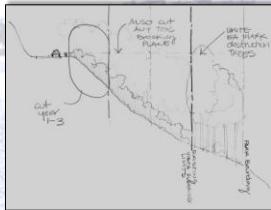


Shifting the Way we Manage Vistas – Moving Towards a Resource and Landscape Management Approach

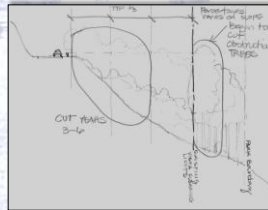
Chris Ulrey, Plant Ecologist
David Anderson, Landscape Architect
Bob Cherry, Wildlife Specialist



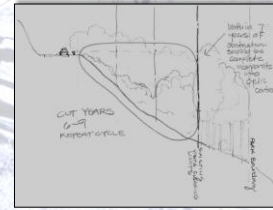
Encroaching Vegetation and Impaired View



First 3-year contract cycle,
the top zone of all vistas will
be cut once.



Second 3-year contract cycle, the top and middle zones of all vistas will be cut once.



Third, 3-year contract cycle, the top, middle, and third zones of all vistas will be cut once.

Natural and Cultural Resources - Ongoing 2011 Projects

- 
- A person is standing in a field, holding a camera on a tripod. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The field is green and appears to be a natural area. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the field and some trees in the distance. The overall scene is outdoors and naturalistic.
- Cultural Landscape Reports
 - Wetlands Inventory & Management Plan
 - Identifying and addressing boundary encroachments
 - Strategies to Prevent poaching of Natural Resources
 - Exotic plant and pest management

[illegible]

Photo: J. Zhang, J. Lashomb



NPS
land



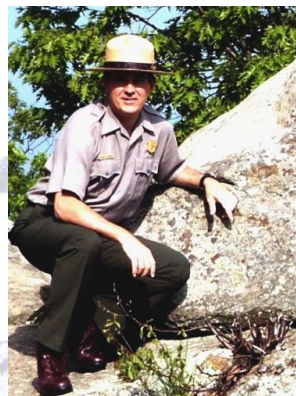
KEEP BEARS WILD!

- Reduce/eliminate the availability of human food sources and human activities that may significantly modify bear populations.
- Minimize/mitigate conflicts between bears and humans.
- Provide opportunities for visitors to understand and appreciate the black bear in its natural environment.



Peter Givens

Interpretive Specialist and
Acting Chief of
Interpretation





VISITOR CENTER	MILEPOST
Humpback Rocks*	5.8
James River	63.8
Peaks of Otter	86
Explore Park Visitor Ctr.	115
Rocky Knob	169
Blue Ridge Music Center*	213
Moses Cone Park	294.1
Linn Cove Viaduct	304.4
Linville Falls*	316.4
Minerals Museum*	331
Crabtree Falls **(new)	339.5
Craggy Gardens	364.6
Folk Art Center*	382
Parkway Visitor Ctr.*	384
Waterrock Knob*	451.2



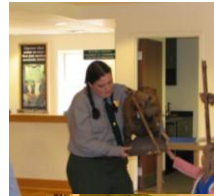
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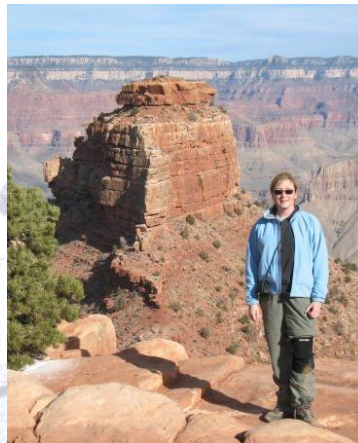
Division Updates from Interpretation & Education

- Seasonals hired in all 4 districts will be putting together engaging ranger programs
- New permanent exhibit opens at Blue Ridge Music Center (MP 213) on Memorial Day Weekend
- Blue Ridge Parkway Family Outdoor Adventure Day – June 25; 2 locations
- Late April the Parkway welcomes new Chief of Interpretation & Education, Susan Gonshor



Laura Nelson

Concessions Specialist





- Concessioners are private sector businesses contracted to provide services to Parkway visitors
- Include lodging, restaurants and gift shops
- Currently 9 locations along the parkway



CONCESSION FACILITY UPDATES & INFORMATION

Name	MP	Schedule
Pisgah Inn, Restaurant & Gift Shop	408.6	March 29 – October 31
Allanstand Craft Shop at the Folk Art Center	382	Year round
Crabtree Meadows Gift Shop	339.5	Mid May – October 31
Price Park Lake Boat Rentals	297.1	Weekends in spring & fall, daily May 22 – September 6
Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Manor	294	March 15 – November 30
Northwest Trading Post Gift and Craft Shop	258.8	April 29 – October 31
Bluffs Lodge, Restaurant & Gift Shop	241.1	Will not open this season
Mabry Mill Restaurant & Gift Shop	176.2	May 3 – October 31
Rocky Knob Cabins	174.1	April 28 – October 31
Peaks of Otter Lodge, Restaurant & Gift Shop	85.9	April 1 – November 28
Peaks Country Store	85.9	Weekends in May, daily May – October
Otter Creek Restaurant and Gift Shop	60.8	Will not open this season



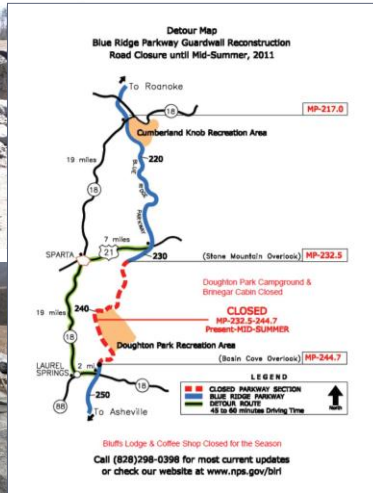


Michael Molling
Chief of Maintenance



Location	Type of Project	Impact
MP 232-245 (Sparta)	Guardwall Replacement	Road closed through summer (anticipated when open?)
MP 286.3 (Boone)	Goshen Creek Bridge Repair	June-August; traffic control at bridge
MP 299-317.5 (Boone/Linville)	Paving Project	Ongoing through summer; traffic control through project
MP 305-364 (Linville towards Asheville)	Ditch Cleaning	May-September; limited traffic control as needed
MP 306-469 (Linville to Cherokee)	Hazard Tree Removal	May-September; limited traffic control as needed
MP 344/Rte 80 (Spruce Pine)	Ramp Repair	June & July; traffic control at intersection
MP 358 (north of Asheville)	Emergency Repair/Slide	Temporary Repair through season
Various locations in VA & NC	Bridge Deck Sealing	Traffic control as needed

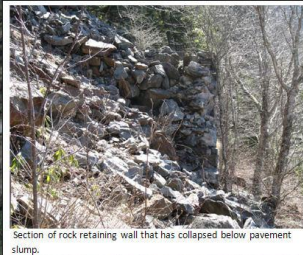
Other projects will be ongoing throughout the summer season, such as painting of Park buildings, which will not have any impact to the visiting public.



For Closures and other road condition information:
www.nps.gov/blri



As a safety precaution the pavement stress line is painted yellow.



Section of rock retaining wall that has collapsed below pavement slump.



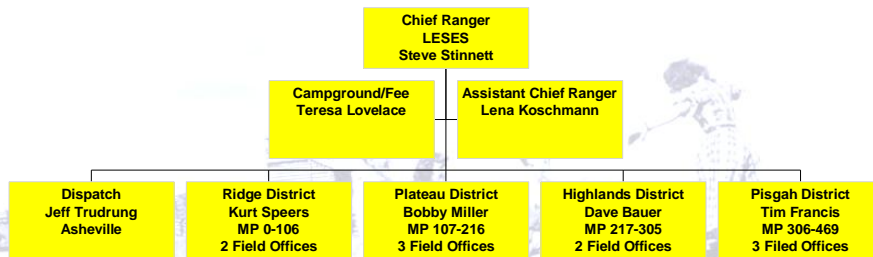


Steve Stinnett

Chief Ranger

Teresa Lovelace

Fee Program Specialist/
Tort Claims Officer





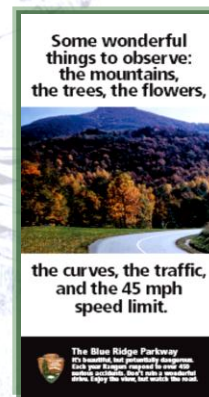
BLR Road Closures 04/18/2011 0700.pdf - Adobe Reader
 File Edit View Window Help

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE REPORT	
DATE:04/18/2011	
TIME:0700	
STATUS	
Open	0.0 Rockfish Gap (I-64) to 2.2 VA RT 610 (Howardsville Turnpike)
Open	2.2 VA RT 610 (Howardsville Turnpike) to 4.4 VA RT 610 (Old Draft Dr)
Open	4.4 VA RT 610 (Old Draft Dr) to 13.7 VA RT 664 (Lyndhurst Rd) (Includes Humpback Rocks Visitor Center)
Open	13.7 VA RT 664 (Lyndhurst Rd) to 16.0 VA RT 814 (Love Rd)
Open	16.0 VA RT 814 (Love Rd) to 27.2 VA RT 56 (Tye River Rd)
Open	27.2 VA RT 56 (Tye River Rd) to 29.0 VA RT 603 (Irish Creek Rd)
Open	29.0 VA RT 603 (Irish Creek Rd) to 45.6 US RT 60
Open	45.6 US RT 60 to 61.4 VA RT 130 (Elon Rd)
UNGATED	61.4 VA RT 130 (Elon Rd) to 66.3 James River Maintenance Area (Includes James River Visitor Center)
Open	66.3 James River Maintenance Area to 76.0 Apple Orchard Parking Area
Open	76.0 Apple Orchard Parking Area to 85.9 VA RT 43 (Peaks Rd) (includes Peaks of Otter Lodge)
UNGATED	85.9 VA RT 43 (Peaks Rd) to

VIR



- 2001: Rangers conduct study to determine cause of wrecks
- In many cases cause is related to turn characteristics
- Education and signage have significant impact





- Proactive law enforcement begins
- Focus on driving behavior
- Small violations, primarily handled with warnings
- Further decreases accident / fatality rate
- Increases interdiction of DUI offenders

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
# of MVC										
500										
450					445					
400				412		428	422			
350			397					333		
300		335							300	
250	297									277

MVC= Motor Vehicle Crashes



www.recreation.gov



CAMPGROUND	MILEPOST
Otter Creek	60.9
*Peaks of Otter	86
Roanoke Mountain	120.4
Rocky Knob	167.1
Doughton Park	239.2
*Price Park	297.1
*Linville Falls	316.4
Crabtree Falls	339.5
*Mt. Pisgah	408.6

* takes reservations



CAMPGROUND AMENITIES

	Milepost	Tent Sites	RV/Trailer Sites	Picnic Sites	Acreage	Elevation (ft.)	Camping Supplies	Telephone	Self Guiding Trail	Hiking Trail	Fishing	Visitor Center	Ranger Programs	Sanitary Dump Station	Reservations	Showers
VIRGINIA																
& Otter Creek	60.9	45	24	--	552	800		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
& Peaks of Otter	86.0	82	50	62	5322	2565	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
& Roanoke Mountain	120.4	74	30	--	1142	1500		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rocky Knob	167.1	81	28	72	4200	3100		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NORTH CAROLINA																
& Doughton Park	239.2	110	25	56	6430	3600		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
& Julian Price	297.0	129	68	100	3900	3400	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
& Linville Falls	316.3	50	20	100	996	3000		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
& Crabtree Falls	339.5	71	22	82	253	3750	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
& Mt. Pisgah	408.6	66	62	50	690	5000	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓



CAMPGROUND FEES

\$16.00 per night (first-come, first serve)

With an interagency pass, (Senior/Golden Age, Access/Golden Access)

\$8.00 per night (first-come, first serve)

\$19.00 per night if reserved through RECREATION.gov

\$9.50 per night if reserved through RECREATION.gov





WHERE TO OBTAIN PASSES:

In person: any Blue Ridge Parkway campground

Online: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>

By phone: 1-888-ASK-USGS, Ext.1

Recreation.gov

1-877-444-6777



Parkway by the Numbers



ANNUAL VISITATION

Recreational Visitors 17 Million

Annual Off-Pkwy

Economic Impact 2.3 Billion

LANDS (as of Oct. 2009)

Total Acreage: Fee Simple 81,785

VA: 34,824 NC: 46,961

Scenic Easement 2,776

VA: 1,758 NC: 1,018

Miles of Boundary 1,200

Adjacent Private Landowners >4,000

Private At-grade Accesses 101

VA: 71 NC: 30

State Secondary Road

At-grade Accesses 199

VA: 104 NC: 95

National Forests Crossed 4

Counties Traversed 29

VA: 12 NC: 17

VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor Centers 14

Miles of Trails 369

(Pkwy-134 trails, 02% of NPS trails)

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Historic Buildings 91

Cultural Landscapes 20

Miles of Roads 558

(01% of NPS roads)

Road Tunnels 26

(37% of NPS road tunnels)

Road Bridges 176

(10% of NPS road bridges)

Road Overlooks/Parking 382

(281 Overlooks, 101 Parking Areas)

Maintained Roadside Vistas 910

Number of Views 1,228

Archeological sites identified >200

Artifacts in collection >690,000

10,500 archeological

32,000 biological

2,400 geological

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

Water Systems 45

(03% of NPS water systems)

Campgrounds (Front Country) 9

Amphitheaters 10

(05% of NPS amphitheaters)

Picnic Areas 13

Concession Lodges 3

Concession Food Service 6

Book or Craft Shops 18

Sewer Systems 95

(05% of NPS sewer systems)

Dams 29

(06% of NPS dams)

Maintenance Offices 14

Ranger Offices 11

Park Radio Towers 10

Road Signs 14,000+

INTERPRETATION & ED (2010):

Curriculum Based Programs 1,348

Kids reached 42,246

Completed Jr. Ranger Prog 2,199

Visitor Center Contacts 944,712

Demos/Performance Art 1,466

Visitor Attendance 351,854

Special Events 31

Visitor Attendance 68,830

Website Hits 1.5 million

NATURAL RESOURCES

Distinct Plant Communities 75

(24 considered globally rare and 7 of these considered globally imperiled)

Species of vascular plants 2074 (top 3 in NPS)

Species of amphibians 43 (top 3 in NPS)

Species of fish 93

Species of mammals 67

Species of birds 227

Species of reptiles 30

Globally rare (GI-G3 species) 74

Fed. Listed T&E Species 9

Species of Concern 14

Watersheds 15

Miles of Streams 600

(115 Headwaters)

Peaks above 5,000 ft 16

Parkway Intersects

3 mountain ranges

6 Army Corps districts

4 state land & water quality districts

2 Fish & Wildlife service agencies

29 Natural Resource Conservation Service offices

Shared Responsibility

- Informed Communities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Parkway partner organizations





For More Information



<http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/>

NPS Stats

National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

[Home](#)
[Reports](#)
[MGM](#)
[Acreage](#)
[Contact Us](#)

System Wide Reports

Blue Ridge PKWY Reports

Select a report

Annual Summary Report (One Year)
Summary Report (Multiple Years)
YTD Park Report
YTD State Report
YTD Park Type Report
YTD Region Report
Fiscal Year Report
Annual Park Type Report
Annual Region Report
Annual Camping Report
5 Year Annual Report by Park(s)
Annual Abstracts
Ranking Report
Forecasting Report

Select a report

BLRI # of Visitors by Location
BLRI Overnight Stay YTD Report
Monthly Public Use Report
Traffic Counts By Location
Annual Park Visitation (All Years)
Visitation by Month/Year
How We Count
Visitation Comments by Park Staff

View Report

[DOI](#)
[Accessibility](#)
[Freedom of Information Act](#)
[NPS Home](#)
[Nature Net](#)
[Social Science Home](#)
[VSP Reports](#)



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 Peter Givens peter_givens@nps.gov (Interp/Education)
 Laura Nelson laura_s_nelson@nps.gov (Concessions)
 Michael Molling michael_molling@nps.gov (Maintenance)
 Steve Stinnett steve_stinnett@nps.gov (Law Enforcement)
 Teresa Lovelace teresa_lovelace@nps.gov (Camping)
 Leesa Brandon leesa_brandon@partner.nps.gov (Partners/Communities/VIPs)

For Parkway Updates:

Call Communications Center to subscribe to road status emails – 828.298.2491

For General Information:

Call Parkway information line – 828.298.0398

Parkway Bear Specialist:

Tom Davis, tom_davis@nps.gov or 540.745.9663



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.